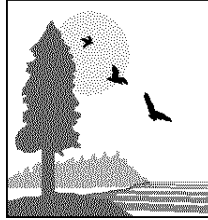


CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

**PAUL D. THAYER, Executive Officer**

(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service from TDD Phone **1-800-735-2929**
from Voice Phone **1-800-735-2922**

Contact Phone: (916) 574-2568**Contact FAX: (916) 574-1950**

October 18, 2009

File Ref: W9777.290

Dear Shipping Agents:

On August 11, 2009, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) approved amendments to regulations governing the implementation of performance standards for the discharge of ballast water for vessels operating in California waters (Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4.7) (see Attachment A). These regulations become effective October 31, 2009.

The amendments to Article 4.7 require vessels subject to the regulation to install sampling ports (i.e. facilities) to allow for the collection of ballast water samples to verify vessel compliance with the performance standards. The amendments establish technical specifications for the design of the sampling facilities and the location (point) where the sampling facilities should be installed. The amendments also establish rules for existing sampling facilities.

In addition to the requirements for sampling facilities, the amendments to Article 4.7 make administrative changes to ensure the smooth implementation of the performance standards, and to maintain consistency between the regulation and the governing statute. As a reminder, Article 4.7 only applies to vessels discharging ballast in California waters.

Because agents are one of the primary conduits of information for vessel operators entering California ports or places, your assistance in providing notice to them is greatly appreciated. With your help, we expect the implementation of these regulations will proceed smoothly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the number listed above. Otherwise, refer to the Marine Invasive Species Program's web page at http://www.slc.ca.gov/Spec_Pub/MFD/Ballast_Water/Ballast_Water_Default.html for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maurya B. Falkner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maurya B. Falkner
Marine Invasive Species Program Manager
Marine Facilities Division

Encl: Attachment A - Article 4.7